

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, March 9, 2017
6:00pm
Selectmen's Conference Room**

Call to Order: First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini called the meeting to order at 6pm.

Members Present: First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini and Selectman Kathy Devlin. Selectman Bud Knorr was not present. Also in attendance were CFO Michael Marinaccio, Senior Accountant Brian Wissinger, Library Director Jessica Miller and Police Lt. Jose Claudio.

Pledge of Allegiance: All members participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Staffing- Library:

Library Director Jessica Miller informed the Selectmen that the part time Teen/Reference Librarian position still remains open and there is a new recommendation from both the Library Board and the Director to recommend the hiring of Mary Jo El-Hacham to fill the position.

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to accept the recommendation and approve the hiring of Ms. Mary Jo El-Hacham as part time reference/teen librarian, seconded by Ms. Pellegrini. The motion passed.

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to increase the salary of Library Director Jessica Miller by \$2,500 effective the end date of her probationary period, seconded by Ms. Pellegrini. The motion passed.

FY17/18 Budget:

Library Director Jessica Miller shared with the selectmen discussions she has been having with the Library Board regarding possible staffing budget opportunities in 2017/2018. Some discussion continued about the need to adjust the proposed Library Budget for 2017/2018. It was agreed that no changes needed to be made to the proposed budget.

Ms. Pellegrini discussed the problems encountered when Towns are required to set their budgets before the State finalizes their budget and shared with the group her request to Town Attorney Carl Landolina regarding what are the Town's options and process to lay sufficient tax in the event additional revenue is needed due to a loss in state aid and pending no additional enabling legislation from the State.

The Police Budget was revisited due to discussions with Lt. Claudio regarding appropriate manpower. Long discussion followed. After the discussion it was determined to adjust the police budget to include having three resident troopers budgeted for 2017/2018. In addition, discussion continued regarding bond issuance costs and TAR. It was decided to remove bond issuance costs from the proposed 2017/2018 budget and to also reduce the contribution to TAR.

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to revise the proposed FY2017/2018 Town Government Budget and approve the proposed FY2017/2018 Town Government Budget in the new amount of \$7,756,421, which includes a 4.66% increase of \$345,572 from last year, seconded by Ms. Pellegrini. The motion passed.

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to revise the proposed FY2017/2018 Debt Service Budget and

approve the proposed FY2017/2018 Debt Service Budget in the new amount of \$ 1,667,945, which includes a 3.05% decrease of \$52,388 from last year, seconded by Ms. Pellegrini. The motion passed.

The proposed FY2017/2018 Capital Improvement Budget in the amount of \$250,000 remains unchanged.

CFO Marinaccio distributed a draft of the Annual Budget Presentation for review and comment.

Additions to the Agenda Items:

Lt. Claudio asked the Board to consider adding Local Traffic Authority Approval for the Somers Rotary 18th Annual Road Race to the agenda.

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to add Local Traffic Authority Approval-Somers Rotary 18th Annual Road Race to the agenda, seconded by Ms. Pellegrini. The motion passed.

Ms. Pellegrini made a motion to add "Strategic Planning Bonding Initiative Committee Member Clarification" as an item to the agenda, seconded by Mrs. Devlin. The motion passed.

Local Traffic Authority Approval:

Somers Rotary 18th Annual Road Race on September 16, 2017:

Lt. Claudio recommends Local Traffic Authority Approval for the above listed race.

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to grant Local Traffic Authority Approval for the Somers Rotary 18th Annual Road Race on September 16, 2017 and approve the closing of Field Road for the event, seconded by Ms. Pellegrini. The motion passed.

Strategic Planning Bonding Initiative Committee Member Clarification:

Ms. Pellegrini stated a correction needed to be made to the previously approved January 24, 2017 Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes. She explained that School Business Manager Bill Boutwell was incorrectly listed as a Voting Member of the Strategic Planning Bonding Initiative Committee. In following Town Charter Requirements Mr. Boutwell cannot be a Voting Member as he is not a resident of the Town. It is recommended that he still serve on the committee as a Non-Voting Member.

Mrs. Devlin makes a motion to designate School Business Manager Bill Boutwell as a Non-Voting Member of the Strategic Planning Bonding Initiative Committee, seconded by Ms. Pellegrini. The motion passed.

Street Light Installation Approval:

Ms. Pellegrini presented the Eversource Request for Street and Security Lighting for the parking lot at Camp Aya-Po. The street light will be installed for security purposes.

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to approve the Request for Street and Security Lighting in the Camp Aya-Po parking lot at 25 Camp Road and authorized First Selectman Pellegrini to sign the work request form, seconded by Ms. Pellegrini. The motion passed.

Minutes:

1/12/17 Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes

2/23/17 Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes

3/1/17 Special Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to approve the 1/12/17 and 2/23/17 Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes and the 3/1/17 Special Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes, seconded by Ms. Pellegrini. The motion passed.

Authorization of Scheduled Payments:

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to approve the authorization of scheduled payments in the amount of \$196,378.49, seconded by Ms. Pellegrini. The motion passed.

Adjournment:

Ms. Pellegrini made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm, seconded by Mrs. Devlin. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Pellegrini -Recording

Minutes are not official until accepted at a subsequent meeting.